

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CARACA 02809 031709 Z

52

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SCA-01 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00

PPTE-00 H-02 CG-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SSO-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 DOTE-00 /088 W
----- 094965

P R 031621 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9286

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

OCEANIC AREA CONTROL CENTER SJUAN PR

UNCLAS CARACAS 2809

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN , CASC (SHENEMAN, W. O. AND CARASSON, DON)

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: LOST AIRCRAFT

REF: CARACAS 2556 AND 2731; STATE 55405

1. VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DETERMINED THAT PREVIOUSLY CITED EMERGENCY SIGNALS WERE EMITTED BY FAULTY TRANSMITTER OF FREIGHT AIRCRAFT TRAVELING IN GENERAL AREA.
 2. MRS SHENEMAN CALLED EMBASSY APRIL 2 ASKING FOR SUPPORT IN SEARCH. ACCORDING HER STATEMENT, AIRCRAFT NOT CARRYING LIFE RAFT AND ARRIVED BARRANQUILLA FROM PANAMA WITH ENGINE PROBLEMS.
 3. VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DETERMINED THAT AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF FROM BARRANQUILLA WITHOUT ENGINE HAVING BEEN REPAIRED. AIRCRAFT LAST HEARD AT RIO HACHA, COLOMBIA, AND VENEZUELAN BELIEVE THAT IT PROBABLY HAD TO LAND IN SQUARES 4-4 OR 4-18 OF ONC K-26. COLOMBIANS REPORTED THAT SOME SEARCH EFFORTS WERE MADE IN THAT AREA BUT WERE CURTAILED BECAUSE OF HAZE. VENEZUELAN NOW CONCENTRATING ON AREA SOUTH OF RIO HACHA AND ON VENEZUELAN SLOPE OF SERRANIA
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DE VALLEDUPAR.

4. VENEZUELAN SAR AIRCRAFT STILL IN MAINTENANCE. SEARCH EFFORTS MADE BY VOLUNTEERS OF "RESCATE VENEZUELA" WITH PRIVATE AIRCRAFT. OFFICIAL AGENCIES ARE LENDING LITTLE MORE THAN MORAL SUPPORT AND HAVE NOT YET ASKED MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO SUPPORT SEARCH. RESCATE VENEZUELA ASKED EMBASSY TO REQUEST UH-1 HELICOPTERS FROM PANAM A, AND WERE GIVEN PERMISSION BY DIRECTOR CIVAIR TO MAKE SUCH REQUEST. FUEL AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN AREA.

5. IN EVENT UNITED STATES INTENDS PARTICIPATE, COORDINATION SHOULD BE EFFECTED THROUGH MR ALFREDO DIAZ LOPEZ, TELEPHONE CARACAS 81-83-56. DIAZ IS CHIEF INSPECTION AND SAFETY DIVISION OF DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION.

6. IT APPEARS THAT AIRCRAFT IS LOST BUT ACCORDING TO INVESTIGATIONS MADE BY VENEZUELAN, MAINLY THROUGH TALKING WITH MRS SHENEMAN IN IDAHO, PILOT IS EXPERIENCED AND PROBABLY SUCCEEDED IN MAKING EMERGENCY LANDING. VENEZUELAN, INTEND TO CONTINUE SEARCH UNTIL WRECK OR SURVIVORS FOUND.
MCCLINTOCK

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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